

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a communication system including a plurality of sites linked together by a packet network, a method comprising:

- 5 determining first and second multicast IP addresses to be used for a two-party call; and
- issuing commands to the packet network requesting reconfiguration of the packet network to enable a first site of the communication system to receive payload for the call via the first multicast IP address and a second site of the communication system to receive payload for the call via the second multicast IP address.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of issuing commands comprises sending, from the first and second site, respective IGMP Join messages identifying the first and second multicast IP addresses to one or more network devices of the packet network.
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3. The method of claim 1, comprising:
- receiving, by the first site, a message identifying a target device associated with the second site;
- 20 sending the message from the first site to the second multicast IP address;
- receiving, by the second site, at least a portion of the message via the second multicast IP address; and
- sending the at least a portion of the message from the second site to the target device.
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4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
- receiving, by the second site, a message identifying a target device associated with the first site;
- 30 sending the message from the second site to the first multicast IP address;

receiving, by the first site, at least a portion of the message via the first multicast IP address; and

sending the at least a portion of the message from the first site to the target device.

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5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of receiving, by the first site, a message identifying a target device comprises receiving a message from a source device associated with the first site.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein one of the source device and target device moves to a different site during the call, defining a moved communication unit and an old site and a new site for the moved communication unit, the method further comprising:

receiving, by the new site, a message identifying at least one multicast IP address associated with the call; and

issuing commands to the packet network requesting reconfiguration of the packet network to enable the new site to receive payload for the call.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving, by the new site, a message identifying at least one multicast IP address comprises receiving, from the moved communication unit, a message identifying the first and second multicast IP address associated with the call.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving, by the new site, a message comprises:

requesting, by the new site from a call server, the first and second multicast IP addresses associated with the call; and

receiving the message from the call server identifying the first and second multicast IP addresses.

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9. In a communication system including at least a first and second communication device participating in a two-party call, a method comprising:
sending a first payload from the first communication device to one or more network devices and addressed to a second multicast group address; and
5 joining, by the second communication device, the second multicast group address to receive the first payload from the one or more network devices.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
sending a second payload from the second communication device to one or
10 more network devices and addressed to a first multicast group address; and
joining, by the first communication device, the first multicast group address to receive the second payload from the one or more network devices.

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